

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 1-73. Claims 13-16, 18, 23, 28, 30-47, 51, 53, 57 and 69-73 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-12, 17, 19-22, 24-27, 48-50, 52, 54-56 and 58-68 remaining pending for consideration. Claims 1, 7-12, 17, 19 and 20 presently stand rejected. Claims 2-6, 21, 22, 24-27 and 29 presently stand objected to. The Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 48-50, 52, 54-56 and 56-68 are presently allowed. Figures 1 and 2 have been amended, claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice and claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 17, 19, 49 have been amended in an earnest effort to expedite a timely allowance of the instant application. The Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments be entered and that the instant application be reconsidered in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Drawing Objections

In the June 14, 2005 Office Action, Figures 1 and 2 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) as needing “prior art” labels. Figures 1 and 2 have been amended accordingly.

Claim Objections

In the June 14, 2005 Office Action, claims 1, 4, 10, 17 and 49 are objected to because of informalities.

In particular, claim 1 is objected to because it is unclear whether the “load is part of the “circuit” set forth in line 1. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the load is not necessarily limited to being included in the presently claimed circuit but simply that the high side switch of the presently claimed circuit is to be coupled between an input and the load.

Claim 4 is objected to because there is no antecedent basis for “a second threshold.” Claim 1 has been amended such that this objection is now moot.

Claim 10 is objected to because it apparently appears that claim 10 recites that the

high side switch is included within the control circuit. Claim 10 has been now been amended to clarify that the circuit is included in an integrated circuit.

Claim 17 is objected to because it appears that “off switch” on line 2 should be changed to --switch off--. Claim 17 has been amended as suggested.

Claim 49 is objected to because “a delay time” is unclear. Claim 49 has been amended to clarify that is a delay time after the high side switch is turned off.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 Rejections

In the June 14, 2005 Office Action, claims 1, 17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sziebert, US Patent No. 6,064,174 (hereinafter Sziebert). In the June 14, 2005 Office Action, claims 1, 17, 19 and 20 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dequina et al., US Patent No. 6,873,191 (hereinafter Dequina). In the June 14, 2005 Office Action, claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Sziebert or Dequina.

In the June 14, 2005 Office Action, claims 2-6, 21, 22, 24-27 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being conditionally allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite a timely allowance, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to embody the limitations included in conditionally allowed claim 2. The Applicant understands independent claim 1 should now be allowable as amended in view of the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action of June 14, 2005. The Applicant further understands that the remaining dependent claims 3-12, 17, 19-22, 24-27, all of which depend on independent claim 1, should be allowable if the independent claim is deemed allowable. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and

allowance of the present application as amended.

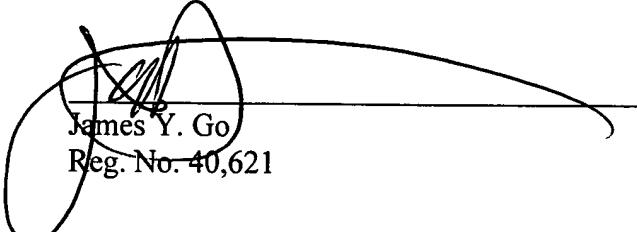
If there is a deficiency in fees, please charge our Deposit Acct. No. 02-2666.

The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 9-13-05


James Y. Go
Reg. No. 40,621

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(206) 292-8600

Attachments

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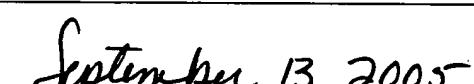
on September 13, 2005

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figures 1 and 2 replace the original sheets including Figures 1 and 2. In Figures 1 and 2, the labels "Prior Art" have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

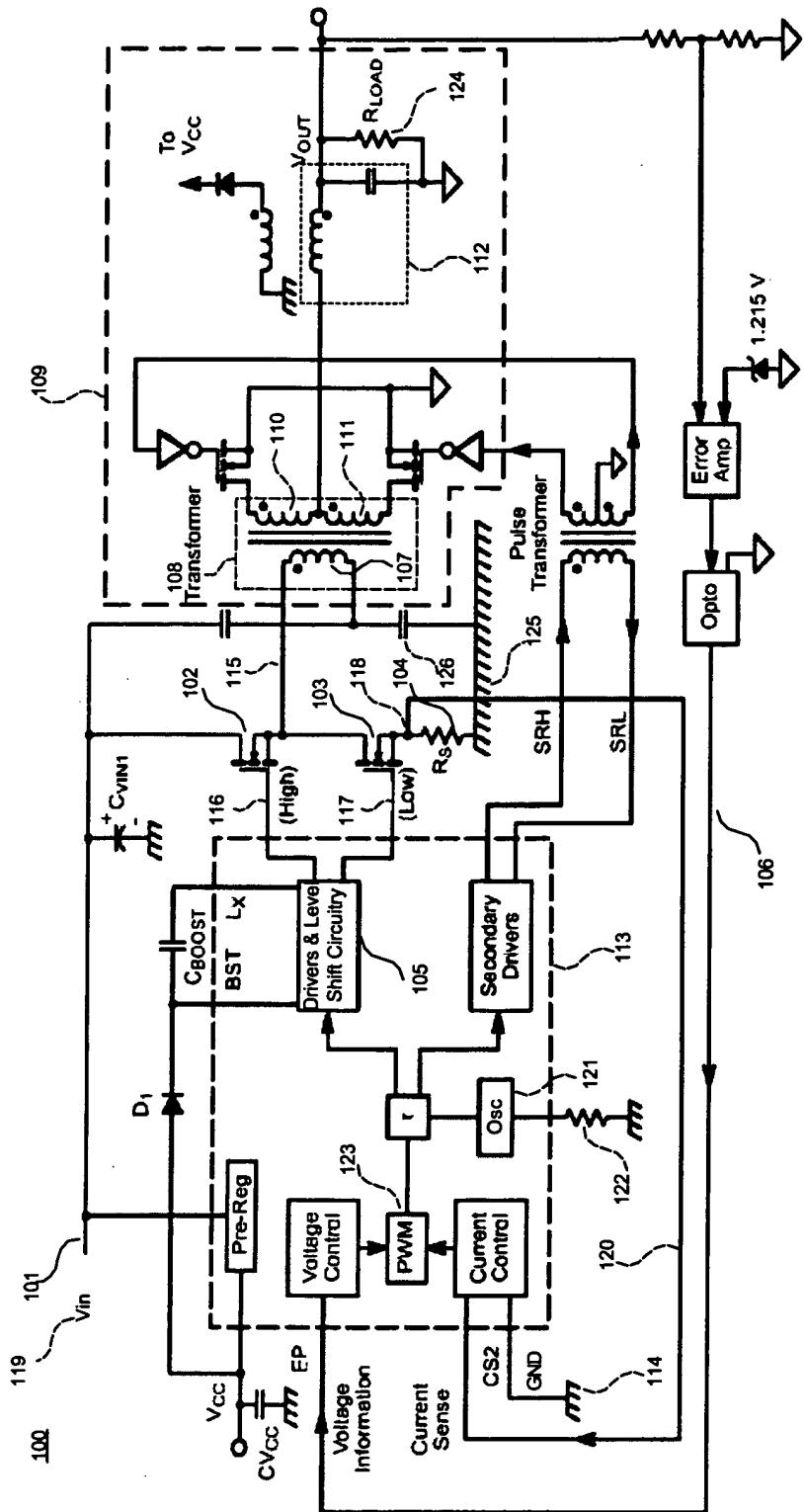


Figure 1

(Prior Art) ← Label
Added

Annotated Sheet
Showing Changes

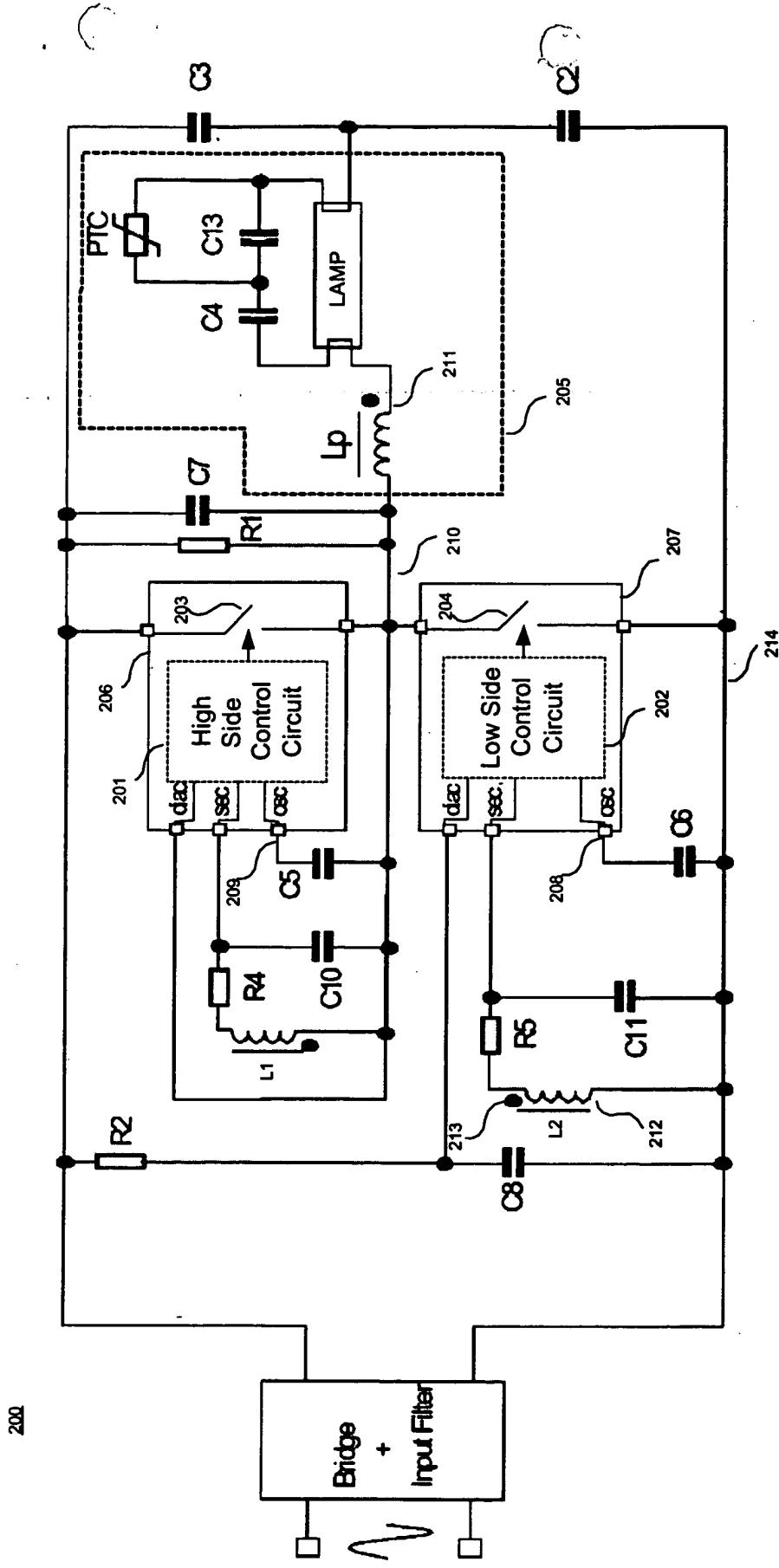


Figure 2

(Prior Art) \hookrightarrow Label /
 Aspects